

Our Ref: SST/HBr

Thursday 14th May 2020

Dear Parents / Guardians,

School Update

I do hope that you are all well and staying safe.

I am sure you are aware that the Prime Minister delivered a speech on Sunday 10th May where he briefly outlined his plans for increasing the physical provision within schools. As a school we have waited for the Department for Education to provide further clarity and guidance regarding this proposal. The senior management team and I have spent much of the last few days preparing and planning for how we slowly begin to enact these proposals.

In short, as of the 1st June it is expected that pupils in EYFS, Year 1 and Year 6 will return to school, with pupils in Year 10 and 12 receiving some face-to-face interaction with their teachers. However, there is no expectation that pupils will return on a full-time basis at this stage.

I would also like to be clear that the 1st June is a provisional date, depending on the latest medical and scientific guidance that the government receives. Therefore, the proposals, as outlined above, are provisional and potentially subject to change. The Department for Education has produced a parental guidance document regarding the proposals, which can be read [here](#).

I would now like to make you aware of the actions that The Duston School will be taking, with the proposals as set out by the Department For Education in mind, which are as follows:

EYFS Arrangements:

As of the week commencing the **8th June** the following weekly arrangements will be in place until the end of the current academic year:

- On a Monday and Tuesday Mrs Almond's (RA) class will attend school between 09.00 and 14.45.
- On a Thursday and Friday Miss Mallon's (RM) class will attend between 09.00 and 14.45.
- All pupils will be provided with a packed lunch by the school.

Year 1 Arrangements:

As of the week commencing the **8th June** the following weekly arrangements will be in place until the end of the current academic year:

- On a Monday and Tuesday Miss Catlin's (1C) class will attend school between 09.15 and 15.00.
- On a Thursday and Friday Miss Whiteley's (1W) class will attend between 09.15 and 15.00.
- All pupils will be provided with a packed lunch by the school.

Further information will be emailed to EYFS and Year 1 parents prior to 8th June and I will be issuing an explanatory video to parents as well.

BASC Provision:

- Please note that the BASC provision is suspended until further notice.

Year 10 Arrangements:

- Year 10 will be in school on a **week on, week off** basis from the 8th June onwards. Pupils in **X band** will be in school during the weeks commencing **8/6, 22, 6 and 6/7** and pupils in **Y band** will be in during the weeks commencing **15/6, 29/6 and 13/7**.
- Pupils in both X and Y bands will have a clear timetable emailed directly to their school email account which will explain what they need to do.
- Year 10 pupils will only be in school on a **Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday**.
- Year 10 will be delivered BIG LECTURES, with **Science on a Monday, Maths on a Tuesday and English on a Wednesday**.
- Pupils will need to bring their knowledge organiser bag and pencil case into school.
- The lectures will **commence at 10am and finish at 12pm**. I therefore advise pupils to begin to arrive on the school site from 09.40.
- The lectures will take place in three locations, namely the Main Hall, the Sports Hall and The Hub.
- We will issue pupils who are on Free School Meals with a sandwich bag lunch after their lecture has finished.
- I will be pre-recording an assembly explaining this to Year 10 and details of the above arrangements will be explained to them in due course.
- Please note that staff will continue to set distance learning work for Year 10 to complete whilst at home.

Year 12 Arrangements:

- Year 12 will come into school as of the week commencing **8th June**.
- Year 12 will only be in school on a **Thursday and Friday** and will be taught via their option blocks.
- **Block A** will come in **every Thursday between 9am and 11am**.
- **Block B** will come in **every Thursday between 12pm and 2pm**.
- **Block C** will come in **every Friday between 9am and 11am**.
- **Block D** will come in **every Friday between 12pm and 2pm**.
- Post 16 pupils will need to bring a packed lunch into school and eat this in one of the three main eateries in the school, which we will assign them to.
- I would advise pupils to arrive on school site 15 minutes prior to the starting time for their lessons.
- I will in due course pre-record an assembly explaining the arrangements to Year 12.
- I will circulate an explanation video to Year 12 in due course regarding the UCAS process and how to write a personal statement.
- Please note that staff will continue to set distance learning work for Year 12 pupils to complete whilst at home.

Key Worker/Vulnerable Pupils Support:

- The current provision being offered will continue and remain in place until further notice, which includes support for our key worker and vulnerable pupils over the May Half Term vacation.
- Secondary Phase Term key worker / vulnerable pupils will be based in F55 and F57, therefore moving from The Hub, after Half Term.
- Primary Phase key worker / vulnerable pupils will continue to report to the Primary Phase building.
- The key worker / vulnerable pupils will continue to come into school for 08.45 and leave at 15.00.

Pupils In Year 2/3/4/5/7/8/9

The current distance learning arrangements for pupils in Years 2/3/4/5/7/8/9 will continue to remain in place. At this current moment in time there is no suggestion that pupils in these year groups are set to return before the summer holidays. Of course, this situation may change and The Duston School will act in accordance with any national change/s as directed by the Department for Education.

Safeguarding Arrangements:

- The current safeguarding arrangements, processes and protocols will remain in place until further notice.

Overall Health and Safety Arrangements:

- Please note that as of the 8th June until the end of the academic year **parental cars will not be allowed on the school site**. We will only be opening the gate to the school at the bottom end of the school car park and pupils, from both phases, will be expected to walk onto the school grounds. Parents and pupils are therefore advised to walk to school.
- The school grounds will be laid out so pupils will queue two metres apart to gain entry to the school building. An explanation video will be issued prior to the 8th June to explain this to parents, guardians and pupils.
- Pupils are expected to wear full school uniform.
- Pupils do not have to wear PPE. Please refer to the following ([here](#)) document for advice and guidance.
- There will be hand sanitiser stations made available at all entry points to the school.

Other Points To Note:

I fully appreciate that you may have very serious and real concerns about the risk to your son daughter. As a school we are following all government guidance and we have undertaken a thorough planning process to mitigate as many risks as we possibly can. I do understand and respect, however, that the wellbeing and safety of your son/daughter is of paramount importance to you. Therefore, the school respects that you may choose to keep your son or daughter at home. Please rest assured that in line with the government's guidance we will not be fining parents if their child does not attend the school.

To help us plan and prepare for opening our doors more widely on the 8th June it would be helpful for us to know your intention in terms of sending your son or daughter back to school. Can I please ask that you email the school at office@thedustonschool.org by **Thursday 21st May 2020** if you do not wish your child to return to school. Otherwise an assumption will be made that your child will be returning.

I thank all parents for your support and I truly hope you all stay safe.

Yours faithfully



Mr Strickland
Principal

Mr S Strickland – BA (Hons), MA, NPQH
Principal

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